

7.1.23 TRANSPORTATION OF PRISONERS IN POLICE VEHICLES

Revised October 20, 2015

The Patrol Bureau has audit responsibility.

Prisoners shall be transported in police vehicles in a manner compatible with the safety and security of both the prisoner and transporting personnel. All persons arrested by officers and transported to the station for booking shall be handcuffed. There is no room for discretion when the subject is charged with a criminal offense. The only viable exception to this policy is when a person is taken into custody for something other than a criminal offense and exigent circumstances apply. For example:

- 1) The person suffers from Alzheimer's or is senile;
- 2) The person is seriously ill;
- 3) The person is a victim being transported.

In such cases, the transporting officer must be reasonably certain a decision not to handcuff will not place him/her or the prisoner at any increased risk. In no event shall a prisoner be restrained with a leg hobble in a hog-tied position (feet hobbled to the handcuffs), nor shall officers transport a prisoner in the prone position, since it can increase the risk of positional asphyxia.

The handcuffing provision shall not apply to the transporting of inmate workers to their off-site work assignments. Applicable vehicle passenger safety sections of the California Vehicle Code shall be followed.

7.1.23.1 NONVIOLENT PRISONERS WITH ONE OFFICER

Revised October 20, 2015

Nonviolent prisoners transported by one officer shall be:

- 1) Handcuffed;
- 2) Seat belted in the rear seat of a caged transporting vehicle;
- 3) Seat belted in the front seat of a non-caged transporting vehicle.

Discretion should be used when one officer transports more than one nonviolent prisoner.

7.1.23.2 NONVIOLENT PRISONERS WITH TWO OFFICERS

Revised October 20, 2015

Nonviolent prisoners transported by two officers shall be:

- 1) Handcuffed;
- 2) Seat belted in the rear seat of a caged transporting vehicle;
- 3) Monitored by the assisting officer, who shall ride in the front seat of a caged transporting vehicle;
- 4) Monitored by the assisting officer, who shall ride in the rear seat of a non-caged transporting vehicle, with the prisoner;

- 5) Observed by the assisting officer, who will monitoring the prisoner's color, breathing, and level of consciousness; during the hours of darkness, an internal light source (flashlight, dome light, et cetera), can be used to maintain a clear view of the prisoner, as long as the light does not interfere with the driver.

7.1.23.3 NONVIOLENT PRISONERS WITH ONE OFFICER – WITHIN THE CITY

Revised October 20, 2015

Violent prisoners transported by one officer shall be:

- 1) Handcuffed;
- 2) Hobble restrained;
- 3) Seat belted in the rear seat of a caged transporting vehicle.

In all cases, a second officer must follow the transporting officer during the transportation of a violent prisoner. If at any time the prisoner becomes uncontrollable, the transporting officer shall stop the vehicle and the second officer will assist with controlling the violent prisoner.

7.1.23.4 NONVIOLENT PRISONERS WITH TWO OFFICERS – WITHIN THE CITY

Revised October 20, 2015

Violent prisoners transported by two officers shall be:

- 1) Handcuffed;
- 2) Hobble restrained;
- 3) Seat belted in the rear seat of a caged transporting vehicle;
- 4) Monitored by the assisting officer, who shall ride in the front seat of a caged transporting vehicle;
- 5) Monitored by the assisting officer, who shall ride in the rear seat of a non-caged transporting vehicle, with the prisoner;
- 6) Observed by the assisting officer, who will monitor the prisoner's color, breathing, and level of consciousness; during the hours of darkness, an internal light source (flashlight, dome light, et cetera), can be used to maintain a clear view of the prisoner, as long as the light does not interfere with the driver.

7.1.23.5 TRANSPORTATION OF PRISONERS OUTSIDE OF THE CITY

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When transporting prisoners outside of the City, including the pick-up of warrant subjects, a two-officer transport is required, unless otherwise approved by the Watch Commander. One officer must be armed.

7.1.23.6 CARE OF IN-CUSTODY PRISONERS

Revised October 20, 2015

Prior to transport, in cases where a prisoner is controlled and handcuffed in the prone position, the prisoner shall be placed in the seated position as soon as reasonably possible. In no event shall a prisoner be handcuffed in a prone position and left unmonitored.

It is the officer's responsibility to ensure the prisoner is breathing adequately once the prisoner is controlled and handcuffed. Officers shall monitor the prisoner's color, breathing, and the level of consciousness throughout their contact with the prisoner.

7.1.23.7 PREEMPTING PRISONER TRANSPORTATION TO RESPOND TO A CALL

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Exceptional circumstances, such as a life-threatening situation, may arise requiring response to a call by a unit transporting a prisoner. Prior to responding to any call while transporting a prisoner, consideration must be given to the nature and urgency of the call.

The transporting unit shall:

- 1) Obtain **PRIOR** permission from a supervisor to preempt. Immediately contact a supervisor if the decision is made to postpone a prisoner's transportation to respond to a call. Upon being advised of the circumstances, the supervisor, will evaluate the need and approve or disapprove the request. If the request is approved, the involved unit must provide supervision for the safety and custody of the prisoner and resume transportation as soon as practicable. The unit shall document all of the details of the preemption in the arrest report, documenting the name of the approving supervisor.
- 2) Obtain **PRIOR** permission from a supervisor for a Code 3 response.
- 3) Consider the charges facing the prisoner, the prisoner's demeanor and attitude, and the number of officers in the transporting unit.
- 4) NOT be allowed to preempt if the prisoner requires medical treatment or evaluation prior to booking.
- 5) NOT go in pursuit under any circumstances.
- 6) Follow all the rules of the road, per 21052 C.V.C.
- 7) Maintain proper custody and ensure the safety of the prisoner.